templated by Government to control the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There has been some increase in the prices of several essential commodities over the past year ending June, 1986. As regards commercial crops, there has been a mixed trend during the last one year. While the wholesale price index of raw cotton and raw jute have declined substantially over the last one year, the process of major oilseeds have, recorded significant increase. The wholesale price index of tea was only moderately lower over the year while that of coffee remained more or less steady.

(b) As regards steps being taken by the Government to control the rise in prices, the main thrust of the Government Policy continues to be increase the production of essential commodities particulary those which are in short supply. The Public Distribution System is being streamlined and expanded. The allocation of foodgrains, imported edible oils etc. for distribution through the Public Distrubution System has been increased in recent months. Some of the essential commodities are imported to supplement the domestic supplies. The export of essential commodities is banned/regulated. Action is being taken by the State Governments against blackmarketeers and profiteers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Development of Stinger Missiles by Pakistan in Siachen Glacier Area

514. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deployment of recently acquired US shoulder firing Stinger surface-to-air missile by Pakistan in the Siachen Glacier, posing a threat to the glacier; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government do not have any confirmed information in this ragard.

A constant watch is being kept on all developments having a bearing on the country's security with a view to taking appropriate measures to maintain full defence preparedness.

Detection of explosive in Tarapur Atomic Power Station

515. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some powerful explosives were detected recently in the vicinity of Tarapur Atomic Power Station;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) What measures have been taken by Government to strengthen security arrangements in and around the Atomic Power Plants in the country to prevent sabotage by anti-national and secessionist elements with disastrous consequences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No Sir. Some signal cartridges were found which are not explosives. These cartridges are used by ships for signalling distress.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Strict security measures are in force for ensuring the safety of the plant.